

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 6, 2009
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 13, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 234

Introduced by Senator Wyland
(Coauthor: Senator Romero)

February 24, 2009

An act to ~~amend Section 51225.3 of~~ *add Section 33543 to the* Education Code, relating to curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 234, as amended, Wyland. Curriculum: *history-social science curriculum framework*: oral histories: genocide.

Existing law provides that there is in the state government the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission to study problems of courses of study in the schools of the state and, upon request of the State Board of Education, recommend the adoption of minimum standards for courses of study in preschool, kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools. Existing law also requires the commission to recommend curriculum frameworks to the state board.

This bill would require the commission to consider and vote on whether to include an oral history component specifically related to genocides in the proposed changes to the 2014 history-social science curriculum framework as part of its regular process of developing and revising curriculum frameworks as requested by the state board.

~~(1) Existing law requires each pupil completing grade 12 to satisfy certain requirements as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school. These requirements include the successful passage of the high school exit examination and the completion of designated coursework in grades 9 to 12, inclusive. The coursework requirements~~

include the completion of 3 courses in social studies, including United States history and geography, world history, culture, and geography, a one-semester course in American government and civics, and a one-semester course in economics.

This bill, commencing with the 2010–11 school year, would prohibit a pupil from receiving credit for passing a course in world history, culture, and geography, without exposure in that course to an oral history component, as defined, specifically related to genocides, as specified. To the extent that school districts would be required to provide a higher level of service in order for pupils to meet this requirement, the bill would create a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: ~~yes~~-no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 33543 is added to the Education Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 33543. As part of its regular process of developing and revising
- 4 curriculum frameworks as requested by the state board, the
- 5 commission shall consider and vote on whether to include an oral
- 6 history component specifically related to genocides, including, but
- 7 not limited to, the Darfur, Rwandan, Cambodian, Jewish
- 8 Holocaust, or Armenian genocides in the proposed changes to the
- 9 2014 history-social science curriculum framework. As used in this
- 10 section, “oral history component” includes, but is not necessarily
- 11 limited to, in-person testimony, video, or a multimedia option, such
- 12 as a DVD or online video.
- 13 ~~SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is~~
- 14 ~~amended to read:~~
- 15 ~~51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 1988–89 school year, no~~
- 16 ~~pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation from high school who,~~

1 while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed all of the
2 following:

3 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
4 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
5 otherwise specified.

6 (A) Three courses in English.

7 (B) Two courses in mathematics.

8 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
9 sciences.

10 (D) (i) Three courses in social studies, including United States
11 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a
12 one-semester course in American government and civics, and a
13 one-semester course in economics.

14 (ii) Commencing with the 2010-11 school year, a pupil shall
15 not receive credit for passing a course in world history, culture,
16 and geography, without exposure to an oral history component in
17 that course, specifically related to genocides, including, but not
18 limited to, the Darfur, Rwandan, Cambodian, Jewish Holocaust,
19 or Armenian genocides. As used in this clause, “exposure to an
20 oral history component” includes, but is not necessarily limited
21 to, in-person testimony, video, or a multimedia option, such as a
22 DVD or online video.

23 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.
24 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
25 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
26 deemed a course in foreign language.

27 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been
28 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

29 (2) Other coursework as the governing board of the school
30 district may by rule specify.

31 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
32 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
33 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study, which may
34 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
35 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
36 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
37 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
38 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
39 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and

1 ~~specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course~~
2 ~~of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.~~
3 ~~SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that~~
4 ~~this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to~~
5 ~~local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made~~
6 ~~pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division~~
7 ~~4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.~~